

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell for generating power by circulating a fuel gas;

a fuel gas supply source for supplying ~~said~~the fuel gas to ~~said~~the fuel cell;

a circulation route for ~~circulating~~ the fuel gas ~~supplied to said fuel cell~~;

drive means ~~provided in said circulation route and serving to circulate said~~for circulating the fuel gas within the circulation route, the drive means disposed in the circulation route;

pressure regulating means ~~for provided between said fuel gas supply source and said circulation route and serving to regulate~~regulating the pressure of the fuel gas in said the circulation route to a predetermined pressure, the pressure regulating means being disposed between the fuel gas supply source and the circulation route; and

control means for controlling a drive quantity of ~~said~~the drive means and variably regulating ~~said~~the pressure regulating means, wherein

~~said~~the control means makes up a deficiency of ~~said~~the fuel gas according to a variation of a required gas quantity required in ~~said~~the fuel cell by regulating a pressure of the fuel gas in ~~said~~the circulation route with ~~said~~the pressure regulating means, while inhibiting a variation of ~~said~~the drive quantity in ~~said~~the drive means.

10. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein said pressure regulating means raises the pressure of the fuel gas in said circulation route according to the increase in a required gas quantity that is required in said fuel cell.

11. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein in a region in which at least the required gas quantity is higher than a standard value, the pressure regulation quantity of said pressure regulating means is varied correspondingly to a variation of said required gas quantity.

12. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein in a region where said required gas quantity is higher than a standard value, a variation rate of the drive quantity of said drive means is reduced with respect to that of a region where said required gas quantity is lower than said standard value.

13. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein in a region where said required gas quantity is lower than a standard value, a pressure regulation quantity of said pressure regulating means is maintained equal to or less than a constant value.

14. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein said drive means is controlled based on said required gas quantity and a measured value of pressure inside said circulation route.

15. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, further comprising

means for determining a drive characteristic of said drive means based on a generated power required for said fuel cell; and

means for determining a pressure regulation quantity provided by said pressure regulating means based on said drive characteristic, which is set.

16. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein in a region in which at least the required gas quantity is higher than a standard value, a drive quantity of said drive means is suppressed and a pressure regulation quantity of said pressure

regulating means is varied so as to make up the deficiency of the drive quantity of said drive means.

17. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein a pressure of said pressure regulating means can be regulated correspondingly to a variation of an air pressure controlled by opening and closing a pair of shut-off valves.

18. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein said drive means is a pump, a compressor, or a turbine.

19. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein said fuel gas supply source is a hydrogen tank filled with hydrogen.

20. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein in a region in which at least the required gas quantity is higher than a standard value, a pressure regulation quantity of said pressure regulating means is varied monotonously.

21. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein a pressure regulation quantity of said pressure regulating means is varied continuously and gradually from a region in which at least the required gas quantity is equal to or lower than a standard value to a region in which at least the required gas quantity is higher than said standard value.

22. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 9, wherein both a drive quantity of said drive means and a pressure regulation quantity of said pressure regulating means are varied in a region in which at least the required gas quantity is higher than a standard value.

23. (Withdrawn) A drive method for a fuel cell system equipped with a fuel cell for generating power by circulating a fuel gas, the drive method comprising the steps of:

estimating a required gas quantity required in said fuel cell; and

making up a deficiency of said fuel gas according to a variation of said required gas quantity, which is estimated, by regulating a pressure of the fuel gas in a circulation route, in which the fuel gas supplied to said fuel cell is circulated, while inhibiting a variation of the drive quantity for circulating said fuel gas.

24. (New) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell for generating power by circulating a fuel gas;

a fuel gas supply source associated with the fuel cell to supply the fuel gas to the fuel cell;

a circulation route for the fuel gas;

a drive pump that circulates the fuel gas within the circulation route, the drive pump being disposed in the circulation route;

a pressure regulator that regulates the pressure of the fuel gas in the circulation route to a predetermined pressure, the pressure regulator being disposed between the fuel gas supply source and the circulation route; and

a controller, wherein the controller controls a drive quantity of the drive pump and variably regulates the pressure regulator, and

wherein the controller makes up a deficiency of the fuel gas according to a variation of a required gas quantity required in the fuel cell by regulating a pressure of the fuel gas in the circulation route with the pressure regulator while inhibiting a variation of the drive quantity in the drive pump.